Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRETOR 03944 130650Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-02 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /108 W
----------121216 141400Z /40
R 121555Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1713
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3944

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: JULY 10 PRISONER DEATH

REF: PRETORIA 3895

1. SAG HAS IDENTIFIED THE PRISONER WHO FELL TO HIS DEATH FROM SECURITY POLICY HEADQUARTERS IN PORT ELIZABETH ON JULY 10. AS LUNGILE TABALAZA, 20, OF NEW BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF PORT ELIZABETH. ACCORDING TO MINISTER OF JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS, JIMMY KRUGER, TABALAZA WAS ARRESTED AT HIS HOME ON JULY 10 BY UNIFORMED POLICE WHO SUSPECTED HIM OF PARTICIPATING IN TWO ROBBERIES PLUS PETROL BOMB ATTACKS ON VEHICLES AND ARSON. KRUGER POINTED OUT THAT TABALAZA WAS ARRESTED UNDER THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ACT (, AND NOT DETAINED UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT, AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITHIN 48 HOURS (AS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 50 OF THE CPA). ACCORDING TO KRUGER, TABALAZA JUMPED TO HIS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRETOR 03944 130650Z

DEATH AFTER BEING TURNED OVER TO THE SECURITY POLICE AND THERE WERE NO PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS OF ANY MISTREATMENT OR TORTURE. KRUGER SAID AN OFFICER OF MAJOR-GENERAL'S RANK WILL IMMEDIATELY INVESTIGATE THE CASE AND AN INQUEST WILL BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. KRUGER REJECTED OPPOSITION CALLS FOR HIS RESIGNATION AND SAID THAT IT WAS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT A MAN BENT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

ON COMMITTING SUICIDE FROM DOING SO. HE POINTED OUT
THAT IN 1976, FORTY PRISONERS COMMITTED SUICIDE IN FRANCE.

2. PRESS AND POLITICAL FIGURES CONTINUE TO REACT
TO THIS LATEST PRISONER DEATH. JULY 12 EDITORIAL IN THE
BLACK ORIENTATED "POST" CALLED FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY
INTO TABALAZA'S DEATH; "RAND DAILY MAIL" EDITORIAL SAID
FAULT LAID WITH SAG FOR NON-ACTION IN BIKO CASE,
WHICH OCCURRED IN SAME PLACE UNDER SAME RESPONSIBLE
OFFICIALS. JULY 12 EDITORIAL IN PRO-SAG "CITIZEN"
LASHED OPPOSITION PARTIES AND PRESS FOR EXPLOITING
TABALAZA'S DEATH AND HARMING SOUTH AFRICA'S "GOOD NAME"
ABROAD. "CITIZEN" EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER LOSS OF LIFE OF
PRISONER AND ASKED WHY POLICE HAD NOT MADE ARRANGEMENTS
TO PREVENT A POSSIBLE SUICIDE BID BY INSTALLING BARS IN
THE WINDOW. CALLS FOR THE REPEAL OF SECTION 6 OF THE
TERRORISM ACT, THE RESIGNATION OF KRUGER, AND FOR
AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE TABALAZA DEATH WERE
HEARD FROM COLIN EGLIN, HELEN SUZMAN AND SELMA BROWDIE,
OF THE PFP, AND LEONARD MOSALA OF THE COMMITTEE OF TEN.
CRITICISM WAS ALSO VOICED BY THE LEADERS OF THE NEW
REPUBLIC PARTY AND SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY. JULY 10 AFRIKAANS
MORNING PRESS PRESENTED RELATIVELY STRANIGHTFORWARD AND
BALANCED ACCOUNT OF TABALAZA'S "TRAGIC" DEATH.

3. COMMENT: KRUGER'S CONSTRAINED PUBLIC REACTION IS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MARKEDLY DIFFERENT FROM THE MANNER IN WHICH HE HANDLED THE
BIKO AFFAIR. THE MINISTER'S EFFORTS TO PORTRAY TABALAZA
AS A COMMON CRIMINAL AND DISTANCE HIM FROM ANY POLITICAL
INVOLVEMENT FAILS TO EXPLAIN WHY TABALAZA WAS TURNED OVER
TO THE SECURITY POLICE. THIS LATEST DEATH IN PORT ELIZABETH
HAS OF COURSE, REVIVED MEMORIES OF THE STEVE BIKO AFFAIR AND FURTHER
REINFORCED THE VIEW AMONG BLACKS AND MANY OTHER OBSERVERS
HERE THAT THE PORT ELIZABETH SECURITY POLICE ARE AMONG THE MOST
BRUTAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.
EDMONDSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS, DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR03944
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0200
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780769/aaaacfvc.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba3e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PRETORIA 3895
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2034489
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 10 PRISONER DEATH
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF, (TABALAZA, LUNGILE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba3e0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014